

§ 303.9 Requirements for short-term Planning Investments.

(a) In addition to providing support for CEDS and State plans, EDA may also provide Investment Assistance to support short-term planning activities. EDA may provide such Investment Assistance to:

- (1) Develop the economic development planning capacity of States, cities and other Eligible Applicants experiencing economic distress;
- (2) Assist in institutional capacity building; or
- (3) Undertake innovative approaches to economic development.

(b) Eligible activities may include but are not limited to updating a portion of a CEDS, economic analysis, development of economic development policies and procedures, and development of economic development goals.

(c) Applicants for short-term Planning Investments must provide performance measures acceptable to EDA that can be used to evaluate the success of the program and provide EDA with progress reports during the term of the Planning Investment, as set forth in the Investment agreement.

PART 304—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Sec.

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§ 304.1 Designation of Economic Development Districts: Regional eligibility.

Upon the request of a District Organization (as defined in § 304.2), EDA may designate a Region as an Economic Development District if such Region:

- (a) Contains at least one (1) geographic area that is subject to the economic distress criteria set forth in

§ 301.3(a)(1) of this chapter and is identified in an approved CEDS;

(b) Is of sufficient size or population and contains sufficient resources to foster economic development on a scale involving more than a single geographic area subject to the economic distress criteria set forth in § 301.3(a)(1) of this chapter;

(c) Has an EDA-approved CEDS that

- (1) Meets the requirements under § 303.7 of this chapter;

- (2) Contains a specific program for intra-District cooperation, self-help, and public investment; and

- (3) Is approved by each affected State and by the Assistant Secretary;

- (d) Obtains commitments from at least a majority of the counties or other areas within the proposed District, as determined by EDA, to support the economic development activities of the District; and

- (e) Obtains the concurrence with the designation request from the State (or States) in which the proposed District will be wholly or partially located.

§ 304.2 District Organizations: Formation, organizational requirements and operations.

(a) *General.* A “District Organization” is an entity that satisfies the formation and organizational requirements under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) *Formation.* A District Organization must be organized as one of the following:

- (1) A public organization formed through an inter-governmental agreement providing for the joint exercise of local government powers; or

- (2) A public organization established under State-enabling legislation for the creation of multi-jurisdictional area-wide planning organizations; or

- (3) A non-profit organization incorporated under the applicable non-profit statutes of the State in which it is incorporated.

(c) *Organization and governance.* (1) Each District Organization must meet the requirements of this paragraph (c) concerning membership composition, the maintenance of adequate staff support to perform its economic development functions, and its authorities and